

Appropriations Committee

February 28, 2023

Public Hearing on **H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Hello Members of the Appropriations Committee.

Hello, My name is Carol Gee and I am a registered voter from Waterbury CT.

I would like to talk about the funding for non-profit Mental Health Services. There is a great need for people who live their lives outside of institutions. To live a free life, with choices is essential to live a full life. If you satisfy a citizen's needs, it brings them comfort and gives those who suffer from mental illness the pleasure of relaxing. This is very important for a racing mind, which is a symptom that may present to a person with a mental health disability.

Mental health programs such as the Independence Center in Waterbury provides a welcoming atmosphere and emotional guidance to the people who visit. This resource of comfort is very needed by the members of the Independence Center. I have been a member for almost 20 years and because of the service I receive, I am able to relax and fully examine my resources and I have the freedom to choose what is right for me.

Thank you for reading my testimony and for consideration of increasing the budget for non-profit services over the next two years.